

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6, 21-22, and 26-30 are now in the application.

Claim 4 was objected to because of the expression « *L-shape* ». The correction required has been made.

Claims 1 to 3, 6, and 21 were rejected to under section 35 USC. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent number 5,263,275 to Rumbaugh.

Rumbaugh discloses a fishing rod handle 20 mountable to the proximal portion of a fishing rod shaft 56. The rod handle 20 includes a rod handgrip 22, a hollow cylinder 22, 31, 32 – see Office Communication, and a cylindrical plug 48, or adapter. The adapter 48 is mounted to the proximal portion of the rod shaft 56. The cylinder 22, 31, 32 is adapted to be mounted over the adapter 48. The adapter 48 has a threaded section 54 engageable with the cylinder 32 to secure the adapter 48 to the cylinder 32. For removing the cylinder 22, 31, 32 from the adapter 48, it must be unscrewed or several rotations must be performed to disengage the threads. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the cylinder is disengaged from the adapter by inducing less than a 360 degree rotation.

One ordinary skilled in the art will appreciate that inducing less than a 360 degree rotation comprises performing any engaging-disengaging movement from a 0 degree rotation (linear movement) to an almost complete rotation (360 degree rotation). Performing more than a 360 degree rotation is highly undesirable while fishing since the fishing line winds around the rod shaft.

The purpose of Rumbaugh's fishing rod handle 20 is to be able to have a handle with a variable circumference. It permits adjustments to fit the hand size of an individual user. Therefore, the size of the handgrip defined by the reference numeral 22 varies in accordance to the user's needs. The handgrip 22 is mounted over the adapter 48 above the proximal portion of the rod shaft 56. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the handgrip is mounted frontwardly of the proximal portion on which the adapter is mounted.

Moreover, in Rumbaugh, the reel mounted to the reel seat 31 cannot be dismounted from the rod shaft 56 as a single unit with the reel seat 31 by disengaging the hollow cylinder 22, 31, 32 from the adapter 48. The diameter of the cavity under the reel seat 31 is smaller than the outer diameter of the adapter 48. Therefore, the hollow cylinder 22, 31, 32, including the reel seat 31 and the reel mounted thereto, cannot be slidably removed from the rod shaft 56 having the adapter 48 mounted thereto. This teaches away from the present invention.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is novel. Dependant claims 2, 3, 6, and 21, which depend on novel independent claim 1, are also patentable. The rejection is overcome.

Claims 1 to 6, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 1,351,473 to Hardy.

Hardy discloses a rod *a* with a tubular handle. The tubular handle comprises an outer tube or a cylinder *e* which slides upon an inner tube or adapter *f*. The adapter *f* is furnished with a spiral slot *g* on its external surface with which a pin or a feather *h* on the inside of the cylinder *e* engages. The handle being a combination of the hollow cylinder *e* and the adapter *f*, there is no portion of the rod shaft *a* which extends past the handgrip. This is contrary to the present invention.

Moreover, Hardy does not teach how to mount a reel to a reel seat, located rearwardly of the handgrip, since there is no portion of the rod shaft *a* which extends past the handgrip. This teaches away from the present invention.

The cylinder *e* of Hardy does not include reel fasteners for mounting a reel thereto. This is contrary to the present invention.

To disengage the hollow cylinder *e* and the adapter *f* of Hardy, more than a 360 degree rotation must be performed. This is impossible to perform if a reel is mounted to the hollow cylinder *e*, the reel having a fishing line extending along the rod shaft *a*. This teaches away from the present invention.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is novel. Dependent claims 2 to 6, 21, and 22, which depend on the allowable independent claim 1, are also novel.

Claims 1 to 6, 21, and 22 were objected to under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6,922,936 to Markley et al.

Markley et al. disclose a fishing rod 10 provided with an handle assembly 16 mounted to a rod 18 through a connector assembly 38. The handle assembly 16 comprises a handgrip 40 and a reel seat 34, extending between the handgrip 40 and the connector assembly 38. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the handgrip is mounted frontwardly of the proximal portion of the rod shaft on which the cylinder including the reel seat is mounted.

Moreover, the reel and the reel seat 34 are located rearwardly of the hollow cylinder 1445, relatively to a longitudinal axis of the fishing rod 10. This is contrary to the invention wherein the reel is mounted to the reel seat on the outer face of the hollow cylinder and over the cavity.

When disconnecting the hollow cylinder 1445 from the adapter 1421, the handgrip 40 remains with the assembly including the hollow cylinder 1445 and the reel mounted to the reel seat 34. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the hollow cylinder is removable from the adapter as a single unit with the reel mounted to the reel seat, the handgrip remaining mounted to the rod shaft.

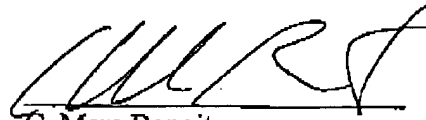
Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification and claims as amended render the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that persecution of this application may be expedited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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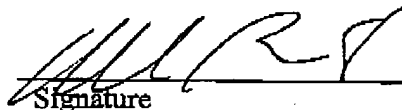
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